Government is to remove deficiencies in the existing National Highway network and to upgrade the same to the National Highway standard rather than expanding the present network.

Acquisition of land for six-laning

2752. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has initiated action for the acquisition of land for six-laning of the roads, under the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of land required and acquired for the purpose particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the time by when the required land is likely to be acquired, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far six sections of Golden Quadrilateral have been awarded. The land requirement for two of these sections (Vadodara-Bharuch and Bharuch-Surat of NH-8) has been assessed as 43.5893 hectare and notification under section 3D of National Highways Act 1956, vesting the land in Central Government has been issued for 37.835 hectare. The balance four sections (Surat-Dahisar and Gurgaon-Jaipur on NH-8, Chennai-Tada and Chilkaluripet-Vijayawada on NH-5) were awarded on 21st February, 2008 and action for land acquisition is being initiated. For other sections, the action will be initiated after award of the project.

(c) Land for these projects to meet the contractual requirements for award of concession is already available. However, additional land would be required for facilities like service road, flyovers/interchanges, acceleration/deceleration lanes, entry-exit ramps etc. The requirement of the additional land can be assessed only after the concessionaire finalizes the design of the project, which is his responsibility under the approved Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) system of implementation of these projects.

As regards Uttar Pradesh, the project for six laning of Delhi-Agra section is under submission for Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for approval and an estimated area of 180 hectare is to be acquired for this project.

(d) Since these projects are at various stages of implementation, it is too early to give time-frame for acquisition of entire land at this stage.

Road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal

2753. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearance has been given to the construction of four-lane road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Kochi;

(b) if so, the details of estimated cost of the project;

(c) the funds so far released for the purpose; and

(d) the present status of work and the details thereof?